

EXHIBIT D2

Brian D. Parker, M.D

1 think there was a mention of other small societies and I
2 didn't have the acronyms for each one of those. So I can
3 go back and review that and get that.

4 Q. Sure. And we can move on. I don't want
5 to hold up to do that. We can make a note to reference
6 what the five other studies were here. And we'll move on
7 to TVT-Secur.

8 Okay. In this section, under Design, you
9 reference the fact that "Other companies were developing
10 their own type of single incision sling and cumulatively,
11 they were described as 'mini slings.' I believe that the
12 TVT-Secur was safe in design and base this opinion on my
13 review of Ethicon documents, my discussions with colleagues
14 and my review of the medical literature."

15 So is your opinion with regards to the
16 actual design of the device or on its application in your
17 practice?

18 MR. WALKER: Object to form.

19 BY MS. BAGGETT:

20 Q. I guess what I'm trying to say --

21 A. Is that two separate issues?

22 Q. Well, let me see if I can make that
23 question a little better. I may need to break it down.

24 Okay. So I guess what I want to get an
25 understanding of is the opinions that you hold in your

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1 report. Are you an expert -- are you holding yourself out
2 as an expert on the design of medical devices?

3 A. Only as they apply to how they are used
4 when the final product is available and used on a patient.
5 But the actual engineering, I wouldn't.

6 Q. So you've never designed a medical device
7 in your practice?

8 A. No, but I have been involved with a think
9 tank, help improve designs for the Medtronic Interstim
10 device. I've helped with that, but I haven't physically
11 engineered any type of sling device.

12 Q. Are you familiar -- as part of your review
13 in offering these opinions, did you make yourself familiar
14 with the standards a manufacturer must follow in designing
15 a mesh product?

16 MR. WALKER: Object to form.

17 A. So you're asking me if there's a certain
18 set of guidelines that manufacturers have to follow? No,
19 I'm not aware of how that process goes on.

20 Q. And are you aware of any standards or
21 guidelines that must be followed in order to submit a
22 device, medical device, for approval or clearance through
23 the FDA?

24 A. You lost me on that. Say that again.

25 Q. I'm just trying to understand if you

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1 are -- in addition to being familiar with how a company
2 manufactures a device, are you familiar with the
3 regulations surrounding designing a device that must be met
4 in order to satisfy the FDA in order to get the product on
5 the market?

6 A. Is that not similar to what we discussed
7 earlier about the 510(k)?

8 Q. It's similar to it, but with particular
9 regards to the design. So there's safety and efficacy
10 things that can be done --

11 A. Right.

12 Q. -- but then there may be some --

13 A. My knowledge of these devices comes from
14 going to meetings and talking to the different doctors who
15 have been involved in the different designs, or going and
16 reading the internal documents. But in no way, shape or
17 form have I ever been involved in the day-to-day process of
18 designing these things.

19 Q. So is it fair to say that you're not
20 familiar with the failure modes and effect analysis and its
21 role in the development of the device? Do you know what
22 those are?

23 A. I'm not familiar.

24 Q. So you didn't review any procedures from
25 Ethicon's internal documents with regards to design, the

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1 designing of this device?

2 A. I did read those.

3 Q. You did?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. And what, if anything, did that, in your
6 opinion, make you qualified to opine about with regards to
7 the design?

8 A. So from the standpoint of all the
9 prototypes, no. But once it gets to a certain prototype
10 and it starts to become -- when the device is actually to
11 the point where it's going through the different studies,
12 whether it be human or animal, at that point those studies
13 are important to me, and so I would give an opinion based
14 on that.

15 Q. Do you know what a DDSA is?

16 A. DDSA. I'm not familiar.

17 Q. And FMEA? Those are not acronyms that you
18 would use routinely in your practice?

19 A. No.

20 Q. Do you have an understanding of whether or
21 not when Ethicon was designing the TVT, the prolene mesh
22 that was used in the TVT, the TVT-R and the TVT-S, if the
23 mesh was designed to rope?

24 MR. WALKER: Object to form.

25 A. Well, the mesh was not designed to rope.

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1 You're asking me if it was designed to rope?

2 Q. Do you know if the mesh was designed to
3 rope?

4 A. I think the idea behind the mesh was for
5 it to lie flat, but I don't know that there was any studies
6 to look at roping on mesh.

7 Q. Do you know whether or not the mesh was
8 designed to curl?

9 A. I can't comment on that, but in reality we
10 all know that it curls.

11 Q. Do you know if it was designed -- that the
12 mesh in the prolene -- do you know if the mesh -- let me
13 just start over on that one.

14 Do you know if the mesh used in these
15 devices was designed to fray?

16 A. Was designed to fray? I'm not privy to
17 that information.

18 Q. Do you know if it was designed to lose
19 particles?

20 A. I'm not aware of any documents on that.

21 Q. Do you know if it was designed to shrink?

22 A. No. I'm not aware of any studies that
23 were designed to look at shrinkage of mesh.

24 Q. Do you know if the mesh was designed to
25 deform easily?

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1 A. I'm not aware of that either.

2 Q. Would you agree that the things that I
3 just asked you about, each one of these, the roping, the
4 curling, the fraying, the particle loss, and shrinking and
5 deformation, that these would be considered unwanted or
6 unintended consequence of the mesh, whether they have
7 clinical impact or not?

8 MR. WALKER: Object to form.

9 A. No. It depends on what they are using
10 them for. Some of the things you're saying -- you lumped a
11 bunch of things together. I don't know that, A, number
12 one, that some of the things you described are of any
13 negative consequence. B, I think it depends on what you're
14 using the mesh for at the time it was studied.

15 Q. And today, for the purposes of today's
16 discussions, we're talking about the use in the TVT-R, the
17 TVT-O and the TVT-S devices. And my question is
18 specifically whether or not you agree if those qualities
19 would be unintended with regards to the design of the
20 devices, whether or not it has a clinical impact or not?

21 MR. WALKER: Object to form.

22 A. What you're describing there may -- well,
23 I don't know that it has a clinical impact. If it were to
24 have a clinical impact, hypothetically, then I don't know
25 of it. And I don't know of the ramifications of

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1 determining that and then what the next steps are to
2 rectify it.

3 Q. But even more succinctly, do you agree
4 that these conditions were not the intended consequence in
5 designing the mesh?

6 MR. WALKER: Object to form.

7 A. I can agree with that.

8 Q. While we're on the subject of your
9 opinions, are you going to be offering opinions with regard
10 to warnings that were provide by Ethicon with regards to
11 the products at issue in this case?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. What risk information are medical device
14 companies required to put in their IFUs? Are you familiar
15 with the requirements?

16 A. Their requirements?

17 Q. Uh-huh.

18 A. Adverse events that are reported in the
19 literature I suppose. I don't know if there's a way that
20 the IFU is set that has to be met, but...

21 Q. Do you know what the industry standards
22 are governing warnings on medical devices?

23 A. I'm not aware of how those industry
24 standards are set. I do know that from a -- again, this is
25 all from a clinician standpoint, how we perceive and look

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1 at those warnings.

2 Q. And that's kind of what I'm trying to get
3 at. As far as in your clinical practice, the way that you
4 perceive the warnings versus whether or not those warnings
5 met the expectations of the industry in complying with
6 regulations and standards.

7 A. So you're taking that question and
8 assuming I know what the standards are. I think they met
9 the standards, yes.

10 Q. And you know what those standards are?

11 A. What I'm saying, I'm speaking from the
12 standpoint of a clinician what those standards would be.
13 I'm not involved in, again, regulation, so I don't know how
14 those things are set. Do I think the IFU is acceptable in
15 its either current or prior form? Yes.

16 Q. Have you, in your review and in drafting
17 your report, read any testimony from Ethicon employees
18 regarding Ethicon's position on what needs to be in the
19 IFU?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. And do you have an opinion as to whether
22 or not there was some conflict between the employees at
23 Ethicon whether or not something should have been in the
24 device that never made it to -- or should have been in the
25 warnings that never made it to the warnings?

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1 MR. WALKER: Object to form.

2 A. I don't know of -- I do know there were
3 conversations among Ethicon representatives about certain
4 items. Again, from a clinical standpoint, that's kind of
5 a ticky-tacky question. Most of those items they're
6 discussing are already well-known complications, side
7 effects, that we tend to deal with with any pelvic surgery.
8 To me, I glanced through those, but in practice it's not
9 much of an issue.

10 Q. Do you agree that physicians should be
11 made aware of all the significant safety risks that are
12 associated with the product via the IFU?

13 MR. WALKER: Object to form.

14 A. I'll just say this about the IFU. The
15 IFU, to me, needs to be in there because it has to be in
16 there. But I don't rely on the IFU. I don't know other
17 surgeons who rely on the IFU. I mean, to me, that would be
18 like relying on your builder to look at a printout of how
19 to put each board together.

20 There are certain inherent things that are
21 in the IFU that I think are silly and don't need to be
22 there. For instance, it says "Don't operate on people who
23 are on anticoagulation," or "Make sure you sew up your
24 incision." So the IFU, from a clinician's standpoint, is
25 very -- it has to be there, but it's not something that we

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1 rely upon.

2 Q. In our discussions earlier today we were
3 talking about how you were trained on the devices, and you
4 mentioned that the earlier devices you learned in
5 residency, through your residency programs, and that with
6 the TVT-S device you actually took the professional
7 education courses provided by Ethicon. Do you recall that
8 conversation?

9 A. Yes, ma'am.

10 Q. Do you have an understanding of whether or
11 not -- and I know that you just recently testified that you
12 don't rely on the IFU -- do you have an understanding
13 whether or not the people that you learned the procedure
14 from, whether or not at some point they may have read and
15 relied on the IFU in relaying information to you?

16 A. Well, I don't know that I testified
17 exactly that, said I don't rely on the IFU. But it's not a
18 critical -- if I said that, really, my point of saying it
19 is it's not a critical part of a clinician's
20 decision-making process. It can be helpful in certain
21 circumstances, but in reality we don't -- you know,
22 physicians don't look at that every time that we perform a
23 procedure. Are there other physicians who may look at that
24 before? I have no way of knowing. I have no way of
25 knowing the people that I've trained from, whether they

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1 looked at that or not.

2 Q. I guess what I'm getting at is who would
3 be in a better position to know all of the fine details of
4 the procedure than the designers of the device and the
5 procedure?

6 MR. WALKER: Object to form.

7 A. So who would be better at knowing that
8 than the designers? Are you talking about the
9 manufacturers?

10 Q. Uh-huh.

11 A. Well, isn't it kind of a combination of
12 the manufacturers and the physicians to come up with that?

13 Q. Well, and, actually, I think the
14 manufacturers employ physicians that assist with this. But
15 I guess what I'm saying is, you learn what you learn from
16 med school. At some point someone has to be taught --
17 number one, shown that there is such a device and then
18 shown how to properly use the device, even if that
19 information passes from preceptor to preceptor to
20 preceptor.

21 I guess what I'm trying to understand is,
22 who would be in the best position to know how to properly
23 perform that procedure than the manufacturer?

24 A. I understand what you're saying now.

25 Okay. So there's multiple parts on the IFU. The part

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1 that's probably the most helpful may be the step-by-step
2 way of putting the device in, the utilization of it. The
3 things that actually from a standpoint of -- I think it's
4 kind of a little bit -- I don't know if not necessary is
5 the right word, but of really no practical importance; you
6 know, what patient is operated on, how long postoperatively
7 to do things. I mean, that's a little bit insulting to my
8 intelligence to say that I went through all that training
9 to have somebody tell me that I have to tell the patient
10 they must wait four weeks before intercourse after having
11 the sling procedure. And there's a lot of stuff like that
12 that's in there, but of any to no practical use.

13 So that thing that is practical useful is
14 the actual, you know, where do my hands go, what do I need
15 do to put this in. But the other part of it is, I mean,
16 it's already well-known, it's already something that's
17 reported in the literature, and it's not something we
18 gained just from the IFU.

19 So to answer your question is, there's no
20 other person that's better than all the physicians who use
21 it and the company that makes it combined together with all
22 the literature to come up with these IFUs.

23 Q. I don't mean in any way to insult you and
24 your intelligence with my questions.

25 A. You're not insulting me.

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1 Q. I just want to make sure that you
2 understand that I've got my job to do to ask these
3 questions.

4 A. No, ma'am, I don't take it from you at
5 all.

6 Q. And I do understand where you're coming
7 from with the fact that certain things that are understood
8 in your practice may not be as necessary to state in the
9 IFU, but would you expect that the more important the
10 information is that the more -- I have a tendency to get my
11 whole thought process off. So if that is common
12 information that every doctor should know, and you're not
13 going to pay any attention to it when you go and review it,
14 certainly if there's something that's not common, that
15 would be something that you would expect to learn from the
16 manufacturer of the device and not wait until the studies
17 that could be many years down the road come out that
18 suggest there's a problem, if they knew at the time the
19 device was manufactured. Do you agree with that?

20 MR. WALKER: Object to form.

21 A. That's a pretty convoluted question.

22 Q. If you want me to restate it, I will, or
23 do you think you understand it?

24 A. I think I understand it.

25 Q. Because I don't want you to guess. I

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1 don't want to confuse you.

2 A. Right. So are there things in there that
3 need to be stated that aren't well-known otherwise? I
4 mean, by the time that these things are made or put in,
5 there's already data on it, so you have to come up with
6 that information somehow, right? And that data -- I mean,
7 is there any data that we don't see that's out there? I
8 wouldn't think there's very often that that occurs. But
9 anything that I think is important could be put in there,
10 but it could not be put in there.

11 Again, as surgeons we just don't use that.
12 I mean, it's not a practical part of daily operation. I
13 get an IFU every time that I put in an Interstim. I've not
14 looked at one in years. I don't understand why people feel
15 like that's the Holy Grail of what we do as surgeons. I
16 mean, we learn how to do a procedure. Once we learn how to
17 do the procedure, we already knew the risks and benefits
18 beforehand, we know what the potential side effects are
19 afterward. I mean, all these things can happen. We know
20 anything can happen with surgery. So, you know, the IFU
21 doesn't really play a big role in this.

22 Q. I guess what my distinction is, certainly
23 between the things that you know or should know as a
24 surgeon, and more focused on the things that you may not
25 have the ability to know because as far as the literature

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1 available to you, it hasn't made its way into the common
2 knowledge.

3 A. Well, I think things like -- for instance,
4 if I put in a sling and they noticed that patients were
5 having blue vision, I'd want to know that. That's
6 something that doesn't make any sense. That's completely
7 off the mark.

8 But anything that has to do with vaginal
9 procedures, bleeding, pain, et cetera, et cetera,
10 et cetera, that's not a big surprise. What would be a big
11 surprise is if they said that your right knee would hurt or
12 maybe your left elbow would hurt. I mean, those are
13 off-the-wall things. Yeah, those things I would want to
14 know, but anything other than that, it's all common
15 knowledge.

16 Q. So for instance, with regards to the TVT-S
17 device, we discussed earlier about the fact that it was
18 laser cut.

19 A. Okay.

20 Q. If the manufacturers of the TVT device
21 understood that the laser-cut mesh had a propensity to
22 cause more frequent and more severe erosions or exposures
23 than the other devices, would that be something that you
24 would expect that they would -- whether it be in the IFU or
25 in the form of some other communication -- make you aware

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1 of as soon as they knew about it?

2 MR. WALKER: Object to form.

3 A. So by stating that you're wanting me to
4 assume that's the truth, that there's a significant
5 difference in the two? Because I'm not going to answer in
6 a way that's going to tell you that I think there's a
7 difference significantly between a TVT-O --

8 Q. I'm not asking it in the way that you --

9 A. If you are asking hypothetically --

10 Q. If there were documents that suggests --

11 A. If there were documents, okay.

12 Q. -- that Ethicon was aware of that suggest
13 that the device had a greater risk of erosion than the
14 mechanically-cut devices, and they knew that before they
15 offered that device, do you feel like the company is
16 obligated to make you aware of that before --

17 A. If there's a huge --

18 MR. WALKER: Hang on a second. Did you
19 finish your question?

20 MS. BAGGETT: -- before you use that device
21 in one of your patients?

22 MR. WALKER: Object to form.

23 THE WITNESS: If there's an enormous
24 disparity, then I think there's something that
25 needs to be said. If it's an inconsistent, small,

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1 then I think that there would be -- the margin of
2 error or the -- I guess I'm blanking on what I'm
3 trying to think of. But the potential that
4 happens by chance could accommodate for that. But
5 if there's a significant change, then that would
6 be something that we would want to look at.

7 BY MS. BAGGETT:

8 Q. And I understand that as far as this field
9 of practice goes, you're at the upper end in a urologist's
10 understanding of female anatomy and the procedures and the
11 techniques, but as far as someone on that bottom layer --
12 and I think you also mentioned to me earlier that at least
13 unique to Knoxville, the gynecologists don't perform the
14 same stuff that the urologists do, they refer them to the
15 urologists.

16 So in situations where that's not the
17 case, this is not the norm, and you've got a doctor who is
18 not as well adept at the procedures and the anatomy and the
19 understanding of the disease processes, do you feel that
20 there's any obligation on the manufacturer of warning in a
21 way that helps that type of doctor understand the
22 seriousness of some of the adverse events, if only to allow
23 them to have that conversation with their patients when
24 deciding whether or not to use the device?

25 MR. WALKER: Object to form.

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1 A. Well, that's a thought. And I guess
2 that's something that the individual physician probably
3 needs to come to terms with, is do they feel comfortable
4 doing that procedure or not. I mean, there's certain
5 procedures I don't feel comfortable with and I'll send off
6 to others. But, you know, that's part of the whole --
7 you're asking me is that -- if you didn't know about a
8 certain problem, and you were going to go ahead and perform
9 a procedure, would that be something that you may have not
10 done if you had known there could be a problem to begin
11 with? Is that what you're asking me?

12 Q. Yes, sir.

13 A. I think what you're insinuating there is
14 there's some type of significant discrepancy between what's
15 known and what's true, and that would be hard for me to
16 really believe.

17 Q. And I'm not asking you to agree with me on
18 any given point whether or not there is such a thing,
19 because we don't have time to go through all the studies
20 and all the internal documents for me to show it to you,
21 and I know you're limited on what you can glean from the
22 few documents I've even shown you today. Certainly that's
23 one document in millions.

24 But for the sake of argument, as I said,
25 it's only if that were true and there were events that were

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1 serious enough that a doctor might reconsider using it,
2 especially in a certain population of patients, or at the
3 very least would have had that conversation with the
4 patient and allowed them the opportunity to decide, that
5 would be something important to relay to those doctors?

6 MR. WALKER: Object to form.

7 A. You know, I think that -- I'm trying to
8 put myself in the position of those physicians. And, you
9 know, if it was a new procedure that just came on the
10 market and there was no precedents before it, it was
11 completely new, I can see that. But when it's just a
12 variation of what's going on before, I think you already
13 have an idea about what to expect and not expect and side
14 effects and complications.

15 So at that point, you have to make the
16 decision. And I think you have to be honest with the
17 patient and say, look, I haven't done many of these
18 procedures; if you would rather go see somebody else who
19 has, we can do that. But it's the conversation. And I
20 think if it's a completely new procedure that's never been
21 on the market, completely different than anything else, I
22 can see that. I think in other ways, as a physician, you
23 can assimilate all that information fairly rapidly and come
24 to your own conclusion.

25 I do think there's some -- you know,

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1 obviously, the companies are trying to make it easier on
2 the physicians and, therefore, the patients. And so they
3 don't want to -- they don't want to hide things from the
4 physicians, because if they start having problems, they're
5 going to have a big backlash against that product and they
6 are going to lose confidence in that product. So I think
7 there's got to be a very open dialogue. I would expect the
8 company would want that, because, otherwise, there would be
9 a mutiny.

10 Q. And you were just describing a situation
11 where a product is new to the market. With regard to the
12 TTVT-S, are you aware of any discussions in any of the
13 documents that you've reviewed or in any of the testimony
14 that you've reviewed in preparing your report today of
15 whether or not one of the problems with the learning curve
16 situation with the TTVT-S device was because doctors were
17 trying to rely on the procedure they had been taught with
18 the TTVT-R and the TTVT-O and that procedure was different
19 enough that it wasn't flowing perfectly with the way that
20 this procedure had to be performed, or do you have an
21 opinion at all?

22 MR. WALKER: Object to form.

23 A. Yeah, it would be hard for me to really
24 comment on how that all -- I mean, each individual
25 physician's ability to do that. I mean, it would be a

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1 guess on my part.

2 Q. And if you knew that -- and I think we may
3 have talked about this before, so if I'm repeating, I
4 apologize. I'm just trying to make sure I've got it clear.
5 But if Ethicon was aware of enough of a difference in a
6 procedure that was subjecting women to additional
7 complications and/or failure of the device because of the
8 lack of proper training or information with regard to the
9 differences in the approach and the technique, do you feel
10 that it's their responsibility to make sure that that is
11 related to the doctors that are going to be using the
12 device?

13 MR. WALKER: Object to form.

14 BY MS. BAGGETT:

15 Q. Do you understand what I'm asking you?

16 A. So you're asking me if the complication
17 occurs or if there's a change in the procedure enough, that
18 that needs to be relayed to the physician? Possibly. This
19 is just so -- you know, I think that it is a new procedure,
20 or it was a new way of putting it in, and so there are
21 little nuances there that I think very quickly could be
22 disseminated to the physicians, either through the work of
23 their sales reps or what have you, or the proctors. And
24 that could be something done very easily, just a phone call
25 or e-mail saying, hey, make sure you put this in this way,

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1 a little bit tighter than normal with the obturator and the
2 retropubic. I think that could be a very easy way of
3 disseminating that information.

4 Does that answer your question?

5 Q. It does. Do you know who Dr. Lucente is?

6 A. Dr. Lucente? I've never met the man.

7 Q. Have you read about him in the materials
8 that you reviewed in drafting this report?

9 A. Yes, I do remember him, but I'm going to
10 have to go back and review precisely what his role was.

11 Q. And I'll save you some trouble. I just
12 want to know if you recall reading anything that suggested
13 that even Dr. Lucente -- who I'll represent to you was one
14 of the KOLs with Ethicon -- whether or not you read
15 anything suggesting he was having trouble with the learning
16 curve as well when he first began using the TVT device?

17 MR. WALKER: Object to form.

18 A. Yeah, I don't recall exactly.

19 Q. And that's fine. You reference on page
20 16, in the second paragraph, "Other studies showed inferior
21 cure rates of the TTV-Secur and the TTV-O or
22 TTV-retropubic," and you chalked that up to the learning
23 curve for the placement of the sling because the only
24 variable was the surgeon. Can you tell me exactly what you
25 meant by that?

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1 obligations with reporting, such as that, or tell me,
2 correct me, as to what your opinions will be.

3 A. My opinions are going to be based on
4 clinical work, not bench work.

5 Q. And the next section on page 18, we talked
6 about degradation. Is it fair to say that anything you
7 read with regards to the topic of degradation would have
8 been included in your reliance materials?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Okay.

11 A. Well, yes. I will say, though, that I
12 tried to get a little bit more familiar with that term.
13 And so there were some PubMed searches that I did that I
14 just kind of perused the abstracts of. I didn't break down
15 every bit of it. I just tried to learn a little bit more
16 about what that was all about.

17 Q. But if it had an impact on or changed your
18 opinions, that would have been something you would have
19 listed in your reliance material?

20 A. Yes. Yes, ma'am.

21 Q. Cytotoxicity. We talked briefly about
22 whether or not the mesh was inert. I just want to
23 understand whether or not your opinions on cytotoxicity
24 come, again, from your practice and experience with the
25 mesh or if there's some underlying research or material

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1 that you reviewed that you're going to testify with regards
2 to the more basic properties and such, like polymer science
3 and things like that.

4 A. At this point I'm not planning on
5 testifying as an expert in those bench type of issues. I
6 know some about it, but not enough that I would feel that I
7 can be -- I'm not going to be able to tell you how those
8 polymers are put together. I'm not a chemist.

9 Q. And, let's see, with regards to
10 contraction, your opinion with regard to whether or not
11 mesh contracts once it's in the body, have you read any
12 literature that suggests that the mesh contracts or shrinks
13 over time?

14 A. The literature that I read suggests
15 there's some initial foreign body reaction, and that can
16 cause a kind of scarring which can cause that a bit. But
17 when you actually look to see if it moves or contracts,
18 there's no data on that at all. There were different
19 studies to look at placement of the mesh. And the biggest
20 thing, from my perspective, that proves it is if there was
21 continued contraction, then we wouldn't see a worsening or
22 a decline in incontinence rates. We'd see an improvement
23 in incontinence rates and we'd see also an increase in
24 retention rates, which we don't see.

25 So looking at different studies on whether

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1 dynamics, the difference between the dynamics of those two
2 applications?

3 A. It could be, and let me tell you why it
4 couldn't be. They used GORE-TEX for mesh repairs in the
5 past. And then they tried to use that for female slings
6 and it just didn't work. There was too many problems. And
7 so that has been abandoned. But prolene and polypropylene
8 is a different story.

9 Q. And if you look to page 21, laser-cut mesh
10 versus mechanically-cut mesh, we talked about that briefly
11 earlier. As far as your opinions here, you say that the
12 mesh is not defective because of the way that it's cut.
13 Can you tell us a little bit more about how you came to
14 that conclusion?

15 A. Right. So if you look at studies from
16 TVT-O, there's some TVT-O that's laser cut and some that's
17 mechanically cut. Personally, I think if you polled most
18 physicians, they wouldn't know the difference in what they
19 were holding. But if you were to look at the studies to
20 see if there was a difference, you're not going to find it.
21 And so based on that, you have to then conclude that
22 whether it's laser or mechanical cut, it's of no clinical
23 difference. There's just no studies. There's nothing
24 there to support it.

25 Q. As far as your review in preparing your

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1 opinions on that matter in this case, do you recall
2 reviewing any documents, internal documents, from Ethicon
3 that suggest that there was a concern --

4 A. Uh-huh.

5 Q. -- with regard to these differences and
6 whether or not they actually did make a difference in the
7 success rates or the safety profile of the product?

8 MR. WALKER: Object to form.

9 A. Yes, I do remember seeing internal
10 documents and there were conversations. And I think those
11 conversations had to be had because there was a difference.
12 But, again, I'm looking at it from a perspective of is
13 there any data to suggest there's a problem or a
14 difference. And if there is, I'm not aware of it.

15 So conversations and those things have to
16 take place within a company. I'm not worried about that.
17 It doesn't change my viewpoint. And I actually applaud
18 them for thinking outside the box. But I don't see that
19 it's been borne out in any literature.

20 Q. If Ethicon were to become aware of the
21 inferiority of a particular aspect of their product, would
22 you expect them to take the steps necessary to fix whatever
23 was making the product inferior in some aspect?

24 MR. WALKER: Object to form.

25 A. You know, in that situation, if you're

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1 A. As of now, yes.

2 Q. And are all of those opinions based on
3 your education, training, experience, review of the medical
4 literature?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Do you offer all of these opinions to a
7 reasonable degree of medical certainty?

8 A. I do.

9 MR. WALKER: That's all I have, Doctor.

10 Thank you.

11 MS. BAGGETT: Very quickly, just a couple
12 of things.

13 (Time 1:34 p.m.)

14 EXAMINATION

15 BY MS. BAGGETT:

16 Q. Now, in the questioning by defense counsel
17 you were asked about particle loss and whether or not it's
18 had a clinically significant impact on patients that you've
19 treated. At least that's the way I understood it. You can
20 correct me if that's wrong.

21 But my question is, have you been trained
22 in pathology or do you perform any activities involving
23 analysis of pathological specimens?

24 A. We have been trained in pathology as part
25 of our residency training and part of the testing that we

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1 have to do when we get out of residency. As far as the
2 day-to-day processing of it, no, but it is something that
3 we will oftentimes go to the pathologist and review slides
4 and discuss things with him, go to tumor conferences, other
5 things where we have to discuss pathology and review
6 pathology.

7 Q. In your normal course of practice, is it
8 your habit to review the pathology that you remove from
9 your patients for any signs of particle loss or the impact
10 that it may or may not have on it? Is that something that
11 you do routinely in your practice?

12 A. That's something that nobody does
13 routinely, ma'am.

14 Q. And you have not undertaken any efforts to
15 study whether or not there is particle loss and whether or
16 not that particle loss has any clinically significant
17 impact on the outcomes of the patients who were implanted
18 with the device, have you?

19 A. So you're asking me if I've looked at any
20 studies based on particle loss?

21 Q. No. No. It's even simpler than that.
22 Have you conducted any studies or analyses and are you
23 involved in any study that looks at the pathology of
24 removed mesh devices to determine whether or not particle
25 loss is something that happens, that occurs and whether or

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1 not it's clinically significant?

2 A. I'm not involved in a study of that
3 nature.

4 Q. You were asked about ranking the
5 importance of information that you relied on in determining
6 your opinions in this case, and with respect to the
7 internal documents, obviously, they are not Level 1
8 evidence like a study would be, but do the internal
9 conversations and recordings of the device manufacturer
10 that place a product on the market have any bearing -- any
11 insight that you can glean from the development of that
12 product and the company's understanding of that product?

13 MR. WALKER: Object to form.

14 A. That would be something that -- no, I
15 cannot tell from just those company documents what their
16 next step would be. What I can tell you is when I see
17 company documents like that, it just tells me that the
18 company is always reviewing what's going on. And I
19 wouldn't anticipate, even if they were doing -- whether the
20 product they feel is doing perfectly or there's some
21 improvements on it, I would anticipate internal documents
22 to try to comment on things they can continue to improve
23 on. And whether that has -- you know, those things have no
24 basis as far as what actually happens with the patients and
25 the clinical data, all of that. So it's something we